

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously amended) A method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;

(b) accepting message addresses by performing at least one of the following acts:

(1) recording, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted;

(2) recording, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file; and

(3) recording, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file; and

(c) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses recorded in the first field; and

(d) upon request by a viewer authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file, the reference identifying a location of the file.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- (a) including in the electronic message window a file identification field;
- and
- (b) recording indicia identifying the file in the file identification field.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field.

Claim 7 (original) The method of claim 6 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secret secondary message recipient field.

Claim 8 (previously amended) The method of claim 7 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

- (a) the first field is labeled "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the secondary message recipient field is labeled "CC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(c) the secret secondary message field is labeled "BCC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 9 (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

(a) the second field with the associated label "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(a) the third field with the associated label "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 10 (previously amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting data of the file to an address identified by indicia recorded in the first field, as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 11 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying an electronic message window further comprises:

(a) accepting input from a user directing composition of an electronic message; and

(b) responsive to the input, transmitting display rendering indicia to a window display subsystem to cause display of the electronic message window.

Claim 12 (previously amended) The method of claim 11 wherein transmitting the electronic message comprises transmitting a series of data frames, the frames comprising:

- (a) indicia identifying the file;
- (b) a message recipient address frame;
- (c) a file viewer frame including a header and a first set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of a viewer authorized to view the file; and
- (d) a file editor frame including a header and a second set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of an editor authorized to modify the file.

Claim 13 (previously amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

- (a) receiving and displaying the message;
- (b) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as a viewer or editor, permitting access to an image of the file; and
- (c) upon receipt of the message at an address of a person identified as an editor, further permitting access to modify the file.

Claim 14 (previously amended) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access to a file, via an electronic message, the method comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field;

(b) designating one more addresses by performing at least one of the following acts:

(1) recording, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted;

(2) recording, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file; and

(3) recording, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file;

(c) transmitting indicia of the electronic message to the addresses recorded in the first field; and

(d) upon request by a viewer authorized to view or modify the file, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message.

Claim 15 (previously amended) A system for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the system comprising:

(a) means for identifying addresses of one or more recipients of the message and designating each recipient as having viewing or editing privileges of the file; and

(b) means for transmitting the electronic message to the recipients within one or more domains distinct from the first domain such that, without transferring the file out of the first domain with the electronic message:

(1) any recipients designated as file viewers and recipients designated as file editors can access the file; and

(2) any recipients designated as file editors can modify the file.

Claim 16 (previously amended) A method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to include, in the electronic message, indicia identifying any addresses identified in the file viewer field as belonging to recipients having viewing privileges of a file identified in the file identification field, and identifying any addresses identified in the file editor field as belonging to recipients having editing privileges of the file.

Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 16 further comprising, before the acts recited in parts (a) and (b), installing one or more dynamically linked library files to a folder designated for software plug-ins of the electronic message program.

Claim 18 (previously amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising preventing the electronic message program from transmitting the file as an attachment to addresses belonging to recipients having viewing or editing privileges of the file and, instead, causing the electronic message program to transmit to such addresses a reference to the file.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 18 wherein causing the electronic message program to transmit a reference to the file comprises transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 18 further comprising causing the electronic message program to indicate whether the file will be transmitted as an attachment to the electronic message or separately from the message.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein causing the message window to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field includes displaying labels near respective fields, wherein:

(a) the file viewer field is labeled "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(b) the file editor field is labeled "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 22 (original) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to include, in the electronic message, indicia identifying any addresses identified in the file viewer field as belonging to viewers having viewing privileges of a file identified in the file identification field, and identifying any addresses identified in the file editor field as belonging to editors having editing privileges of the file.

Claim 23 (original) The data storage medium of claim 22 wherein the indicia of instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 24 (original) The data storage medium of claim 23 wherein the dynamically linked library files reside within a plug-in folder of the electronic message program.

Claim 25 (original) An electronic message system comprising:

(a) an electronic message program that, during normal operation:

(1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field; and

(2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons; and

(b) means for causing the message window to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field and include, in the electronic message, indicia designating any addresses identified in the file viewer or file editor fields as belonging to viewers or editors having viewing or editing privileges, respectively, of a file identified in the file identification field.

Claim 26 (currently amended) A propagated signal embodied in a transmission medium in a network encoding ~~embodied in a message-encoded~~ data stream having a series of data frames, the frames comprising:

(a) reference data identifying a file;

(b) a message recipient frame;

(c) a file viewer frame including a header and a first set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of a viewer authorized to view the file; and

(d) a file editor frame including a header and a second set of indicia associated therewith identifying an address of an editor authorized to modify the file.

Claim 27 (original) The signal of claim 26 wherein the reference data includes indicia of a location of the file.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (original) A method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting one or more file accessor addresses;
- (b) for each address, determining an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;
- (c) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses within at least a second domain distinct from the first domain;
- (d) for each electronic message sent to a file accessor address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message; and

(e) for each electronic message sent to a file accessor address not so authorized, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 30 (original) The method of claim 29 wherein transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message further comprises transmitting, in or with the message, a reference to the file identifying a location of the file.

Claim 31 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting a hyperlink identifying a location of the file.

Claim 32 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein transmitting the reference includes transmitting an attachment that includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

(a) displaying an electronic message window that includes a plurality of fields including a first field, a second field, and a third field; and

(b) accepting message addresses by performing at least one of the following acts:

(1) recording, in the first field, indicia identifying one or more addresses to which the electronic message is to be transmitted;

(2) recording, in the second field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of viewers authorized to view the file; and

(3) recording, in the third field, indicia identifying one or more addresses of editors authorized to modify the file.

Claims 34-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously amended) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window further comprises displaying a secondary message recipient field and a secret secondary message recipient field and displaying:

- (a) the first field labeled as "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;
- (b) the secondary message field labeled as "CC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (c) the secret secondary message field labeled as "BCC:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 38 (previously amended) The method of claim 33 wherein displaying the electronic message window comprises displaying:

- (a) the second field labeled as "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and
- (b) the third field labeled as "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claims 39-43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the addresses to which the electronic message is transmitted are within one or more domains distinct from the first domain.

Claim 45 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit, in or with the message, a reference to the file that identifies a location of the file.

Claim 46 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 45 wherein the reference to be transmitted includes code implementing a direct file access module.

Claim 47 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to display labels near respective fields of the electronic message window, wherein:

(a) the label for the third field is "TO:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof;

(b) the label for the first field is "VIEWER:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof; and

(c) the label for the second field is "EDITOR:" or a linguistic equivalent thereof.

Claim 48 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 14 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to transmit data, upon request by a recipient having viewing or editing privileges of the file to an address identified by indicia recorded in the third field.

Claim 49 (currently amended) A data storage medium comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for managing access, via an electronic message, to a file maintained within a first domain, the method comprising:

- (a) accepting one or more file accessor addresses;
- (b) for each address, determining an authorization status as either (1) authorized for direct file access or (2) not authorized for direct file access;
- (c) transmitting the electronic message to the addresses within at least a second domain distinct from the first domain;
- (d) for each electronic message sent to a file accessor address authorized for direct file access, transmitting data of the file separately from the electronic message; and
- (e) for each electronic message sent to a file accessor address not so authorized, transferring data of the file as an attachment to the electronic message.

Claim 50 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 49 further comprising indicia of instructions for a processor to perform a method for modifying operation of an electronic message program that, during normal operation, (1) displays a message window including a message recipient field and a file identification field and (2) generates an electronic message for transmission to one or more persons, the method comprising:

(a) causing the message window displayed by the electronic message program to further include a file viewer field and a file editor field; and

(b) causing the electronic message program to include, in the electronic message, indicia identifying any addresses identified in the file viewer field as belonging to viewers having viewing privileges of a file identified in the file identification field, and identifying any addresses identified in the file editor field as belonging to editors having editing privileges of the file.

Claim 51 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 50 wherein the indicia of instructions reside within one or more dynamically linked library files.

Claim 52 (previously presented) The data storage medium of claim 51 wherein the dynamically linked library files reside within a plug-in folder of the electronic message program.